

Harold J. Wanebo and Shashikant Mehta  
Serial No.: 09/287,884  
Filed: April 7, 1999  
Page 2

RECEIVED  
AUG 28 2001  
TECH CENTER 1600  
1600  
3300

--16. (New) A method for increasing apoptosis in tumor cells comprising contacting the tumor cells with:

- an effective amount of paclitaxel and
- an effective amount of C6-ceramide, sequentially or concomitantly, wherein the apoptosis induced by the combination of the paclitaxel and the C6-ceramide is greater than the apoptosis induced by contact of the tumor cells with either the paclitaxel alone or the C6-ceramide alone, thereby increasing apoptosis in tumor cells.--

--17. (New) A method of decreasing a size of a tumor comprising contacting the tumor with:

- an effective amount of paclitaxel and
- an effective amount of C6-ceramide, sequentially or concomitantly, wherein the induced decrease in size of the tumor by the combination of the paclitaxel and the C6-ceramide is greater than the decrease in size of a tumor after contacting the tumor with either the paclitaxel alone or the C6-ceramide alone, thereby decreasing the size of the tumor.--

--18. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising paclitaxel in an amount effective to induce apoptosis of tumor cells and C6-ceramide in an amount effective to induce apoptosis of tumor cells and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.